

J.D. "Pepper" Petersen  
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1. Are you familiar with restrictions Montana law imposes upon the activities of an individual holding the office of COPP?

Yes, I am very familiar with the restrictions placed on the COPP. I will, if chosen to represent OPP, keep the OPP a respected entity in Montana by steering clear of all political activity not reserved specifically as a duty of the COPP. I have no interest in being a candidate for public office in the near future so that restriction does not concern me at all either.

2. What is your legal writing experience?

I worked as an intern in the Tennessee House of Representatives writing legislation for an active legislative Government Affairs Committee. I have prepared campaign finance requirements for candidates for state, FEC and IRS compliance.

3. Have you ever been party to a complaint filed with the COPP?

No, never.

4. What is your current or past involvement with either the campaign of a candidate or a ballot initiative?

As a consultant and volunteer I have served in many capacities in many campaigns, but am not currently involved in any campaigns. Here is a brief history of my campaign activity:

Kernell for Legislature-2000(TN); Gore Victory 2000(TN); Billings City Council races 2003(MT); Several state Legislative, statewide, and judicial campaigns in 2004 as a representative of the Montana Conservation Voters

(MT); Lindeen for Congress 2006 (MT); professionally supported the National Rifle Association lineup of endorsed candidates in Montana, WA, OR, ID, and AK and Federally from 2008-2011.

5. Have you been affiliated with a political party or political action committee? If yes, how will this affiliation affect your ability to render impartial decisions on complaints filed against candidates, PACs, and ballot initiatives?

I was involved in my College Democratic group at the University of Memphis; I have worked for a few different PAC's including the Montana Conservation Voters PAC in 2004, and for the National Rifle Association PAC's from 2008-2011. My PAC and candidate history is clearly bipartisan and will not affect my impartiality in judging these entities at all.

In fact my expertise in PAC activities and the non profit/political mix that currently defines third party political activity will help me to better serve the people of Montana as the COPP as I have direct and intimate knowledge about how these entities must legally operate. The complexities of these groups and their interactions with the political process should not serve as an impediment to the policing of their regulated political activities. As an expert in the operation of these types of political/non profit entities I can fairly and accurately preside over the regulation that must be maintained to keep the integrity of Montana's citizen driven electoral process in place.

6. What is your opinion of the current candidate contribution limits?

I believe they are fair and reasonable.

7. Have you or a family member been involved in the legislative process as a lobbyist?

No, not as a paid lobbyist. Only as a citizen when issues concerned me.

8. In your opinion, do further regulations or restrictions need to be placed on lobbyists' activities?

I believe the current state regulations affecting lobbyist in Montana are reasonable enough to not be a hindrance to citizen participation in the legislative process. I believe that laws affecting lobbying activities must protect the integrity of the legislative process while guaranteeing citizen access to government is not impeded. I believe Montana's current regulations provide for both of these needs.